

52
A Seasonable
APOLOGY

FOR

Mr. *Heidegger.*

Proving the Usefulness and
Antiquity of Masquerading from
Scripture, and prophane History.

WITH

OBSERVATIONS on the several Species
of MASKS now in Use:

AND EIKewise

The Report from the Committee ap-
pointed to state and examine the Ad-
vantages arising from our present
Masquerades.

by P. W.
LONDON:

Printed for *A. Moor*, near St. Paul's. 1724.

Price Six-pence. *June.*

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FOR

Mr. Hargrave.

Proving the Usefulness and
Antiquity of Maltreating from
Scripture, and prophane History.

WITH

OBSERVATIONS on the several Species
of MASKS now in Use:

AND LIKEWISE

The Report from the Committee ap-
pointed to state and examine the Ad-
vantages arising from our present
Maltreatment.

LONDON:

Printed for A. Millar, near St. Pauls. 1734.

Price Six-pence.



To that most Celebrated
MATRON, disguis'd and distin-
guish'd by the Name and Title of
Mother N——m.

MADAM,



YOU are sensible it has been
customary for Writers in all
Ages, at least such as expect-
ed Immortality, to prefix the
Name of some extraordinary
Person to other Labours, to give them
Countenance and Protection; and that it
was possible, after I had undertaken an
Apology for Mr. H——r, and Defence
of the Usefulness of Masquerades, I could
be at a Loss for a Patroneess, whilst so
great an Encourager of the Liberal Arts
and Sciences was in Being as Yourself.
The Causes, Courses and Consequences of
these Entertainments, naturally led me to
you for Protection, because only one of your
Calling

The DEDICATION.

Calling was proper to my Purpose. Tho' it's true, indeed, had I been a vain Person, that had affected the Reputation of being either acquainted with, or beholden to the Quality, I might have found out some one in a higher Class, to have address'd my self to on this Occasion. But as I had chosen a most useful Subject, so I was not weak enough to choose a less useful Patroness; for no Body at this Time of the Day carries on such a Stroke of Business as you do.

A Masquerade is so properly yours, and so much your Concern, that if it is not your own Child, 'tis really your Nursery; and whatever the Motives may be of those Entertainments, 'tis certain, that the House you keep with unrival'd Reputation, is the real Scene of Action; and to you, as it is with some others in a less Degree, that these Masquerades owe the Opportunity of the finishing Stroke and Consummation of the Business. So that notwithstanding I have prov'd in the following Treatise, beyond Contradiction, the important Uses of Masquerades; yet I am here bound to acknowledge, that at your House chiefly, it is, that those very Uses are apply'd; so that I think, I may modestly assure myself of your motherly Protection; as not only your own Interest is concern'd in it, but likewise, that
gills.
the

The DEDICATION.

the common Method of carrying on your own Business separate from this, is wholly in Masquerade; unless it is when some of your Nymphs are so obliging to appear quite naked. It is to the Mask of Sanctity, fac'd with the Practice of Piety, and some other Books properly chosen, that you can cover the Lewdness you get a Livelihood by: It is to the Masks of artificial Maiden-heads, that you get a good Price for Girls that have been us'd before: It is likewise, to a little Machine, or masking Habit, which shall be Nameless, that you preserve one Child from the Infection of another; the Clothes too, from the Tally-Man, Masks the Nakedness of your Nymphs, to make 'em pass current; and your Paint and Washes disguise their Complexions: They too, with Honey in their Mouths, are oftentimes found to have Stings in their Tails: So that after stating the Case so exactly betwixt you and my self, I think it is as reasonable for me to expect your Protection, as 'tis for you to expect to Thrive by your Calling; for one Thing I am sure of, that scarce a Masquerade has been, but in Consequence of it, you have had the Entertainment of near one hundred Couples of Masqueraders; who, when they had chang'd their Moneys, doubtless pay'd you sufficiently for your Time and Trouble,

The DEDICATION.

Trouble, and as some of these were People of the best Quality, so your Interest will certainly be sufficient for me, and my Client too, and your Protection will eternally oblige

Madam,

Your most dutiful Son

and Servant

P. W.





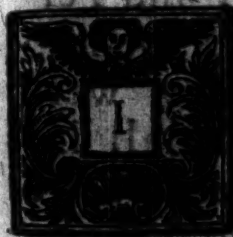
A Seasonable

APOLOGY

FOR

Mr. H—g—r.

Proving the Usefulness and
Antiquity of Masquerading from
Scripture, and prophane History.



Am sensible that in writing
an Apology for this Gentle-
man, I shall encounter with
Prejudices sufficient to de-
ter any Pen, less daring than
mine, from the Attempt, and rouse up
so many different Parties to oppose me,
that were not the Ladies my good and
faithful Allies, I should despair of Suc-
cess.

B

But

But inspir'd with Charms which I can no longer resist, and supported by Facts that no reasonable Man can contest, I here enter the Lists as their Champion, and throw down my Gauntlet in Defiance of the boldest of my Opposers.

I take it for granted, that in Case I prove the Usefulness and Antiquity of Masquerading, I shall go a great Way towards the Vindication of my Client, and as I proceed too, shall answer the Reflections his Enemies have thrown upon him, and make it appear how necessary such an extraordinary Genius is at this Juncture.

And first, to prove the Usefulness of Masquerading from Scripture, I shall Instance the Fall of our first Parents : *Adam and Eve* so lately form'd by the Wisdom and Power of Almighty God, had such a Measure of Purity and Perfection, as sufficiently qualified them to withstand all the Assaults they were liable to ; and the Devil, with all his Power and Malice, could not hope to compass his Ends by Force, and therefore necessarily had Recourse to Fraud : But to come to ensnare them with Fallacies in any Appearance suitable to the Greatness proper to himself, his subtilty well knew, would soon alarm their
Virtue,

Virtue, and put them upon their Guard; and therefore cunningly chose the Mask of a Serpent, (an abject insignificant Creature, and at that Time harmless) to execute his Purposes; in which he succeeded, to despoil them, and all their Posterity, of their Innocence and Perfection. And pardon me, courteous Reader, if I exult a little in the modest Assurance I have of gaining a compleat Victory; having already produc'd such a notorious Fact in Behalf of my Client; and let me defy too, any one that has any Faith in reveal'd Religion, to contradict me, if I assert, that it proves the Usefulness of Masquerading with a Vengeance. How hard is it then, that my Client should be reproach'd any longer with promoting Entertainments void of Usefulness or Design; when I have, and shall fully make it appear in the Course of my Arguments, as well as from his own Successes, how exactly he falls in with the Taste and Genius of the *British* Nation. We are, properly speaking, an Island full of Politicians; for our very Women and Children dabble in Politicks, and such of our Clergy as are conscious they understand not Divinity, supply that Defect, with Political Sermons; and find their Account in it too, if they happen but luckily

to be on the wrong Side of the Question: Now, my Client, (that even succeeding Generations may confess his Usefulness) having consider'd how difficult it is to understand aright the Maxims of *Machiavel*, and that few have either Leisure or Capacity for the Task; and to encourage some enterprising young Gentlemen, that would gladly, without the Pains of thinking, be thought wiser than their Neighbours, and expect some Time or other, to lord it over their Betters, has cook'd up an Entertainment, call'd a Masquerade, where even the most refin'd Politicks of the infernal Cabinet are reduc'd to Practice, and made easy to the meanest Capacity. Now, as the Devil is indisputably the profoundest Politician, and uses Masks in his greatest Enterprizes, and my Client is allow'd to have the best Genius for contriving a Masquerade; so, the many and wonderful Things that have been transacted at some of them, sufficiently confirm their Usefulness.

The second Fact I shall recite from Scripture, to prove the Usefulness of Masquerading, is the Story of *Lot* and his two Daughters; *Lot*, though a just Man, and lately escap'd from the Ruin that overthrew *Sodom* and *Gomorrhah*, had his

his Virtue sapp'd by the Force of a Mask, (for Drunkenness is a Disguise, and a Disguise is a Mask) and committed Incest with his Daughters. The Girls it seems, being in a desolate Place, where Men were scarce, resolv'd however, not to lose their Teeming-Time, but to trick even their own Father into the Business; nor were they long at a Loss how to undermine his Virtue by the Force of a Disguise, having been bred in *Sodom*, which, in the modern Sense, was a very polite Place, and as such, necessarily had its Masquerades; and to the Succession of these incestuous Enterprizes, was owing those two great Nations of *Moab* and *Ammon*. *Thamar* too, the Daughter-in-law of *Judab*, who had been abus'd by the Impiety of *Err* and *Onan*, and, to her Prejudice, remain'd still a Widow in her Father *Judab*'s House, notwithstanding his youngest Son was now grown up to Years of Maturity; in the Mask of an Harlot, tricks that Prince and Patriarch, to commit Incest with her, by which Encounter she had Issue; the Want of which was a heavy Reproach amongst the *Israelites*. And sure I am, that I may modestly claim a good deal of Merit of this Kind for my Client; since such Numbers of wealthy People, that had

had long lamented the Want of Heirs, now transported, behold their Nurseries stock'd with Children; for Impotency on the Man's Side, is hardly a Misfortune, where the Wife has the free Use of Masquerades; and how comfortable must it needs be, to a Gentleman that labours under such a Defect, to see with what Alacrity his good Lady shall repair to these Entertainments, in order to supply it.

I might instance too here, by the Help of a Mask *Jacob* obtain'd the Blessing from his Father *Isaac*; but that being a Use not intended by my Client, I shall wave it. And how *Micah* too, the Daughter of *Saul*, sav'd her Husband *David*, by imposing an Image, dress'd and laid to Bed in his Stead, on the Messengers of *Saul*, 'till he was escap'd out of their Reach: But this being foreign likewise to the Design of my Client, I shall drop it with the other, tho' both of them serve to prove the Point in Hand; and taking my Leave of Sacred Writ, which has abundantly prov'd the Usefulness of Masquerading, I shall pass on to prophane History.

It would be endless to recite the Adventures of the Heathen Deities, who are represented by the Poets to have

have been perpetually in Masquerade; especially when a Rape, or any such momentous Affair was to be transacted: The old Thunderer himself, has, according to them, varied his Disguises, as often as e'er *Proteus* did his Shape, and always found it subservient to his Designs. But preferring the Gravity of History to the Fiction of Poets, I shall mention that matchless Masquerade at the Siege of Troy.

The Greeks had for many Years besieg'd that City, and found all their Efforts but of little Effect, at least not sufficient to reduce it; so that wearied out with storming, they had Recourse to a Masquerade. A Horse of an enormous Size, was built, and the Belly of it was stor'd with armed Men, which the cheated *Trojans* themselves, drew within their own Walls; but so soon as those conceal'd in the Mask, found a proper Opportunity, they issu'd out, and open'd the Gates to their Friends, who instantly ravag'd and burnt the proud City to the Ground.

I might come nearer Home too, and mention the *Spanish* Masquerade in Queen *Elizabeth's* Reign, stiled the *Invincible Armado*; and doubtless it had been found so, but that the *English* prov'd the better Masqueraders. But lest I should

should startle some of my unwary Readers by calling it a Masquerade, I will, for their Satisfaction, explain myself as follows : A Ship is most certainly a Mask, and a Man of War the most excellent of the Specie ; and if so, then such a prodigious Fleet, and so well mann'd as theirs was, must certainly have been a very formidable Masquerade, without which Masks of theirs, (as we are an Island) they could never have invaded us. As *Waller* says,

*'Tis not so hard for greedy Foes to Spoil
Another Nation, as to touch our Soil.*

The same Poet too, speaking of our Situation in another Place, and the Prowess of our Naval Masks in his Time, has it thus :

*Angels, and we, have this Prerogative,
That none can at our happy Seats arrive :
Whilst we descend at Pleasure to invade
The Bad, with Vengeance, and the Good,
(to aid.*

But at that Time they were superiour to us, both in Number and Force ; and had not Sir *Francis Drake*, by some new invented Masks, since call'd Fire-ships, ruin'd their hellish Enterprize,
we

we had undoubtedly *fallen a Prey to their Teeth* : But I have ventur'd on the Recital of this last Fact without any Instruction from my Client, who aspires not to the Care of the Commonwealth, being well enough satisfy'd with the Post he enjoys at present. And therefore modestly thinks its Safety none of his Business.

The *Gun-Powder Plot* was a Masquerade of that unspeakable Usefulness to the Papists, and their Cause, that had it not been discover'd and prevented, it would infallibly have destroy'd at one Blow, the whole Legislature of this Kingdom.

The Masquerade at *Paris*, commonly call'd the Massacre, was of that extream Use to the Projectors of it, that in one Night, it destroy'd 100,000 Protestants. The Mask was remarkably useful to the Regicide that cut off King *Charles's* Head; it being the Opinion of most People, that had such a Machine been wanting, no one had even at that Time of Madness, been desperate enough to have undertaken it; and how effectually it screen'd him from Punishment afterwards, is notorious; for had he been known at the Restoration, he had certainly suffer'd the

the sharpest Pains that could have been inflicted.

And in our Days how extremely useful has the Mask been to the Blacks of *Walham*, in so much that our Legislature has found itself under a Necessity of making a new Law on Purpose to extirpate them.

O Mask! Great has been at all Times thy Usefulness, and greatly art thou still in Use: By thee fell our first Parents, and by thee Sin and Death enter'd into the World: By thee, *Lot* and *Judab* committed Incest with their own Daughters, and by thee the *Grecians* conquer'd the City of *Troy*: By thee, Sons aspire to the Wombs from whence they sprung, and Daughters wantonly embrace the Loyns that begot them: By thee, Great Ladies talk Bawdy without blushing, and envy our Oyster-Women no longer: By thee too, my Client gets Yearly his Thousands, and keeps Mistresses he cannot enjoy.

But I shall now proceed to give further Proofs of the Usefulness of Masquerading from common Sense, and Experience; and after that is done, if any one shall continue to think evil of my Client, why let the Sin of it rest upon his own Head; for my own Part, I shall sit down and indulge the Peace and

Quiet

Quiet arising from a good Conscience,
 having faithfully discharg'd the Trust
 that was repos'd in me.
 And that Masks are extremely use-
 ful to almost all Sorts and Degrees of
 People, we know from daily Experi-
 ence: It is to the Mask of Religion that
 the Hypocrite owes his good Name;
 and to the Mask of Honesty, that the
 Knave draws well-meaning People into
 his Clutches in order to cozen them.
 It is through the Mask of Bravery, that
 the Coward is suffer'd to be saucy; and
 through the Mask of Demureness, that
 the Whore gets sometimes a new Spark
 at a Christening. *The Devil* (we read)
 can transform himself into an *Angel of*
Light; and my Client, tho' he once won
 a Bett of five Guineas on being found
 uglier than *Granny* of frightful Memo-
 ry, yet at one of our Masquerades, I
 am told, pass'd on ~~him~~ for the
~~Devil~~ of ~~Paradise~~. *Orill* his impotency
 made the Discovery. But as Things, ra-
 ther than Persons, should determine us
 in our Opinions; so I shall assert, that
 Religion itself, not only serves to cloak
 a World of Wickedness, but in some
 Cases must appear in a certain pre-
 terible Dress; tho' in Fact, Religion,
 like Truth, is seldom real, and never
 can be aimable, unless it free from Dis-
 guise.

guise. But to be more particular on this Head, Popery is little else than a spiritual Masquerade; the God they pretend to adore, appears in the Substance of Bread, and their Prayers are in Masquerade, as they are in an unknown Tongue; and so is the Gospel likewise with them, by which Means they keep the Laity in perfect Bondage and Subjection. Their Carnivals and Jubilees, are Masquerades to all Intents and Purposes; and their Jesuits in all reform'd Countries, appear in Masquerade; so that they not only lead their own Princes by the Nose, but by such Wiles disturb the Peace of others: They propagate Error under the Mask of Truth, sow Discord by the Mask of Unity, and play the Devil for Godsake; and in a Word, their whole System of Worship is all Imposture, and a compleat Entertainment of spiritual Juggling and Legerdemain. The Quakers are a sly Set of Masqueraders, that find their Account in it, as well as any People whatsoever; their outward Simplicity is calculated, not only to cloak the Cunning of the inward Man, but to entice the rest of Mankind to deal with them by Choice, whilst they, in Return by Choice, for such Things as they want, deal only with one another; and therefore

fore, though not well enough observ'd,
 deal with six times the Advantages of
 other People; so that the Mask of God-
 liness is of exceeding great Gain to them:
 If they acknowledge no Superiority, 'tis
 because they think none too good to be
 deceiv'd by them; the Light they pre-
 tend to have, they tell you, is within,
 and that being in Masquerade, speaks
 them all of a Piece; for did it shine
 forth, it would be discern'd in better
 Fruits than we gather from them at pre-
 sent: But indeed *We do not gather Grapes,
 Thorns, nor Figgs, on Thistles.* I might
 shew too, how very useful the Mask
 of Conscience truly scrupulous, is to some
 other Sects amongst us, but I study
 Brevity, and so shall proceed to that
 which offers itself next, which is Po-
 liticks, a Subject so fruitful and pro-
 per to my Purpose, that alone 'tis able
 to furnish out a Volume. Disguises are
 so essential to it, that without them,
 notwithstanding the Honours and Pro-
 fits attending this Science, few Things
 are practicable in it; and with a proper
 Set of them, and properly worn, most
 Things are to be effected. In the Mask lies
 the Skill of a Politician, as the Strength
 of *Sampson* did in his Hair; and to strip
 him of his Mask, is to leave him no wiser
 than his Neighbours; so that in having
 a good

good Set of Masks, and wearing them properly, is the Excellence. Like a Story I have heard of a defunct Attorney; one praising of him for having been excellent in his Way, was answered by a Brother of the Quill, that indeed he had a good Set of Evidences, and knew how to sort them to the Cause. Law, though the Path of Justice, and Boundary of every Man's Right and Property, very often serves for a Mask to the greatest Rapine and Oppression. Justice herself, the very Soul of this Gigantick Body, is necessarily painted blind, for could her Ladyship see as well as some of her Children can feel, she would be sometimes in Danger of Partiality. To mask Cruelty and Oppression, and screen it from Justice, is an Excellency that not only acquires Reputation to those possess'd of so much Artfulness, but Estates too, to themselves and Families; and without such Disguises, there would not, God knows, be Bread for the tenth Part of the Number that now live in Splendour and Luxury by it.

Physick is an exact Masquerade, for after its Professors have, with Study and Diligence, acquired a competent Knowledge in it, they industriously conceal the Mystery from other People. Their

Pre-

Prescriptions can only be read by themselves, and their Medicines are all disguis'd; the very Patient himself, tho' he constantly disburles the expected Fee, is entirely in the Dark, whether his Life or Death is the Purchase of it.

*Some sell by Laudanum, and some by Steel,
And Death in Ambrosi lax, in every Pill.*

Garth's Dispen.

Every Medicine they give, has its proper Vehicle, as the Bolus its leaf Gold, the Pill its Wafer, &c. And indeed, 'tis necessary they should give the nasty Things they prepare, in Masquerade; or, I believe, their Patients would be as unwilling to take Physick, as they are themselves.

Poetry is doubtless in Masquerade, for its Satyr smiles in your Face, at the very Time 'tis making you eternally ridiculous; and all its Instructions and Morals are couch'd under Fables, Allegories, Similies, &c.

Its Professors too, are commonly in Masquerade, for their Appearance is poor, whilst their Minds are rich beyond Expression. Give one of the inspir'd Train a good Theme, or a lucky Thought, and he shall in Raptures, trample on Crowns and Sceptres, tho' he's sure

ture to get little by it, when touch'd up to an Entertainment, or has not even Bread to sustain Nature withal, whilst he's working it.

War is likewise a Masquerade; for first the Pretence for waging it, is commonly foreign to the real Motives of it, and the Methods of carrying it on, are little else but Masks and Disguises of the real Design; or what is marching and countermarching, mining, sapping, Ambushments, and the like; which are all extremely Useful in the Art of War, and necessary Parts of a Military Masquerade. Tho', I can't but think, notwithstanding the Cry of Modern Improvements, that our Ancestors had some Advantages of us in this Art; and it does my Heart good to read sometimes, how some of those ancient Heroes have bluster'd, when securely rivited in Iron and Steel; for 'twas easy for them to be Intrepid, whose Armour was Caseharden'd and Weapon Proof; and in Case of any new War, I should think this Sort of Armour might still be convenient to indulge some young Gentlemen that could not sell out, having never been flush'd with Victory, nor even seen the Face of an Enemy.

Trade too, is extremely beholden to Masks, whether Foreign or Domestick; the Merchant enters one Comodity in
the

the Name of another that pays less Duty; and Goods for Exportation, which he, in his own Conscience knows is for Home Consumption, and so secures the Drawback, these Things being shipp'd, but to be run again; the Shopkeeper of all Kinds, has his Mask and Mystery, by which, he receives Sums of Money with a Servant, as an Apprentice, to do his Business for him; when otherwise, he would be Money out of Pocket yearly to Labourers for doing the same Business: The Mechanick too, has his Craft, which serves him to the same Purpose, and all these Masks are very useful to their Owners, and without which, the trading Part could never arise to such Estates and Honours as they do.

Sport is almost of all Kinds perform'd in Masquerade, the Fisherman's Net has its Bait, and the Angler's Hook must be mask'd with a Bait, or, I believe, all will agree with me, 'twould be but in vain to hope for Fish. The Fowler is conceal'd behind his stalking Horse, and the setting Dog engages the Attention of the Covey, till the Net is drawn over them, or the fatal Shot is sent amongst them. It is to the Decoys and Decoy-ducks that we owe the Plenty we are serv'd with of that Fowl in their Season, and to Traps and Gins

that we destroy Vermin. The Mask of Loyalty is very useful to those that take the Oaths to the Government, and mean the Pretender, as it saves them the Payment of double Taxes. So that to deny the Usefulness of Masquerading, after all that I have urg'd in its Defence, is, willfully to shut ones Eyes that one may not see.

As to the Antiquity of Masquerading, the second Thing propos'd in my Title Page, I shall expect but little Opposition in the Proof of that, unless it be from the Free Masons, they indeed, pretend to a great Antiquity; but without any other Proof than their honest Word; some of them challenge their Original from *Solomon*, and say, they were Instituted at the Building of the first Temple at *Jerusalem*; but had the wisest of Men been their Institutor, they would then no Doubt have had some Secrets worth the betraying long before this Time. Some of this Fraternity date their Confusion from the Tower of *Babel's* Building; and one, to pin the Basket, that their Antiquity may be matchless, as their Extravagance is boundless, has father'd the Follies of his Society on the All-wise Creator of all Things, and calls him their first Grand Master, as he created the Structure

sure of the Universe ; which Madness, I shall not think worth my Trouble of answering, nor tell him, that Matter was in some Sense in Masquerade, even in *Chaos*, being then (as we read) without Form ; but shall return to the first Fact I recited from Scripture, to prove the Usefulness of Masquerades, which was the Fall of our first Parents, soon after the Being of Time, and as such, sufficiently enables me to triumph over these wretched Triflers, and aver, that the Antiquity of Masquerading is unequal'd ; and they may, for what I care, continue still to admit People into Secrets which they will be sure still to keep, because out of nothing can nothing be divulged.

As to the Reflections that have been thrown upon my Client, they are either so frivolous or scurrilous as not to deserve an Answer ; however, that I may not leave any Stone unturn'd that may be of Service to my Client, I shall give them my Reader, with suitable Answers to them, as follows :

The first is, That my Client promotes an Entertainment call'd a Masquerade, which in Fact, is nothing but a human Catterwauling ; but to shew how wide the Spite of this flies from the Mark it was level'd at, I shall answer, That my

Client is utterly unable to bear any Part in an Entertainment of that Nature.

The second is, That he keeps half a dozen Mistresses, and is unable (as I said above) to use any one of them; so that you see in this Reflection they come into my own Opinion of him: But I would ask then, where lies his Crime? Is there not rather a negative Virtue ascrib'd to him, in that he keeps so many lew'd Women from pursuing their own vicious Inclinations?

The third Reflection is so very shocking, that was I not resolv'd to go thorough-stitch in this Apology, I would not have mention'd it, lest this Tract of mine should fall into the Hand of some Lady big with Child; and that is, That my Client is as ugly as the Devil, or the Knight of the ugly Face, and such like: But in Answer to it, I shall alledge, That he did not make his Face himself; and that by these Masks he has pass'd Muster amongst the Handsomest, and has had the Pleasure of seeing some of our first rate Toasts in Disguises (if possible) uglier than himself.

The fourth Reflection is, That he has debauch'd the People; but to this I answer, That he found them already de-

bauch'd

bauch'd to his Hand, or he could ne'er have succeeded as he has done.

The fifth Reflection is, That he designs by these Entertainments of his, to introduce Popery, and the Pretender; but in Answer to this, I shall plead, That my Client has necessarily taken the Oaths to the Government, and abjur'd the Pretender, which the Lawyers tell us, is all the Security required for any Man's Fidelity; and one Thing, I am sure of, that no Change that can possibly happen, can be of more Advantage to him, than what he enjoys at present: But as 'tis needless to rake further into the Dirt, I shall only present my Readers with the Report from the Committee of Matrons appointed by my Client, to state and examine the real Advantages, arising from our present Masquerades. The Countess of *Clingfast*, Chairwoman.

The REPORT.

IT having been made to appear to this Committee, as well on the Oaths of several hundreds of living Witnesses, as by written Certificates, That there has been within these eight Years last past, above eight hundred Females cur'd of that ill-favour'd Distemper, call'd the Green-Sickness, by the frequent Use of Masquerades,

Masquerades, after all other Means were found ineffectual, not excepting the Steel Pills sold in *Duke's Place*.

Resolv'd then, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that a Masquerade rightly us'd, is a Specifick for that Distemper.

It having likewise been made appear to this Committee, that more than 600 Women afflicted with Obstructions, Bearings-down, &c. have, at these Entertainments, found a pleasing, safe, and effectual Cure.

Resolv'd likewise, That 'tis the Opinion of this Committee, that Masquerades are extreamly helpful in such Cases.

It having been further made appear also to this Committee, that 137 marry'd Ladies, supposed to have been Barren, have, by the frequent Use of these Entertainments, been made Fruitful. |

Resolv'd likewise, That 'tis the Opinion of this Committee, that Masquerades are a Specifick for Barrenness, if curable.

It having been made appear also to this Committee, that near four hundred Females doom'd to the Arms of old, or otherwise,

otherwise, impotent Husbands, have from the frequent Use of these Entertainments, receiv'd in good Part, Relief and Supply.

Resolv'd, That 'tis the Opinion of this Committee, that Impotency on the Man's Part, the coldest, heaviest Curse a Woman can labour under, is in good Measure supply'd by Masquerades.

It having been made appear likewise to this Committee, that fourscore and fifteen Gentlewomen too strait lac'd, or aukard, to entertain their Husbands, have from the frequent Use of Masquerades, been made more capable of their Duty.

Resolv'd then, That 'tis the Opinion of this Committee, that these Entertainments have a very great Tendency, to make Ladies capable of pleasing their Husbands.

It having likewise been made appear to this Committee, that an unspeakable Number of well-bred Ladies (restrain'd by their Characters from many convenient Liberties, enjoy'd by those in a lower Class) have been sadly oppress'd with Spleen and Vapours, 'till by frequenting these Masquerades, where they

they could assume the Liberty of talking, what pleas'd them best, without blushing, they have found Amendment of Health.

Resolv'd then, That 'tis the Opinion of this Committee, that Ladies shall have Liberty to wear Masks, at all such Times as they have Occasion to twattle of Humours, as are necessary to Health, without the Expence of Blushes.

It having been farther made appear too, to this Committee, that several Gentlemen are forc'd to check their natural Desire of talking, unless at Masquerades, because conscious of Understandings inferiour to their Estates and Honours.

Resolv'd then, That 'tis the Opinion of this Committee, that Masks are absolutely necessary to such Gentlemen; and that therefore, they should be allow'd to wear them in all Places, and at all Times, in common with their Swords, that they may talk their own Things over in their own Way, without Reproach to their Quality.

This Committee having further taken it into Consideration, that Separations of Man and Wife, which prov'd from
a mutual

a mutual Dislike of each other, and Divorces occasion'd by the good Woman's being prov'd tardy, are sufficiently provided against in Masquerades; because, if any Man dislikes his own Wife, he may there have the Use of almost any other Man's, he finds present; and likewise, the Wife to, may be furnish'd with an agreeable Variety; and if some Ladies are to frail too keep their Matters to themselves, they may there find a sufficient Concealment.

So that this right reputable Committee is of Opinion, that Masquerades shall be farther extended, in Order to extend their great Usefulness, that is, that in the good Cities of *London and Westminster*, there be two every Week, and one likewise weekly in every City and County Town in *England* at least, Lent excepted, when 'tis (if ever) convenient to abstain from all Kinds of Flesh; and that for the Sake of Regularity, they be all under the Licence and Direction of Mr. H——r.

C. Clingfast, Chairwoman.

This Report was sent me by my Client, to lay before the Publick, and is here submitted to the publick Opinion; he being resolv'd as far as is consistent

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with

with all the necessary and proper
for the future. This having
Tale, and received the Pay promised
by my Client, I shall lay down my
in full Assurance of having been obliged
to take it up again in this Cause, or
other to hang it up in the Theatre in the
Hay-Market as a Trophy having gained
a complete Victory, and shall now
depart my self with cheerful and
strong Jellies, to wait the Orders pro-
mised me by the Ladies, in a
famous Concurrence.
So that this right respectable Com-
tee is of Opinion, that Measures shall
be further extended, in Order to extend
their great Usefulness, that is, that in the
good Cities of London and Westminster,
there be two every Week, and one the
wife weekly in every City and County
Town in England at least, I am except-
ed, when 'tis (if ever) convenient to
abstain from all such Shows; and that
for the sake of the Ladies they be all
under the Protection of
Mr. W.



This Report was presented by my Clie-
ent to day before the Publick, and is
not submitted to the publick Opinion;
he being reliev'd as far as is consistent
with